



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Health Administration  
Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System

# Press Release

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## **Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System recognized as a leader in LGBT health care**

NEW ORLEANS – The Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System has been named an LGBT Health Care Equality Leader for the fourth year in a row by the Human Rights Campaign. The designation affirms VA's commitment to providing equal access to high-quality health care for all Veterans, including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Veterans.

To earn the LGBT Health Care Equality Leader distinction, the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System's practices and policies were evaluated to ensure the health care provided is inclusive to Veterans of all sexual orientations.

"Being an LGBT Health Care Equality Leader lets Veterans know that when they come to the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System, they will be treated with respect every time," said Medical Center Director Fernando Rivera. "Our health care providers are sensitive to the unique needs of each Veteran, and they deliver the high-quality care that our nation's heroes deserve."

The Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System is home to a diversity and inclusion program that promotes a deep understanding of the wide array of cultures and backgrounds represented in the Veteran population. In addition to the LGBT Health Care Equality Leader designation, it earned VA Secretary's Awards for Diversity and Inclusion Excellence in 2019 and 2020. Southeast Louisiana Veterans of any sexual orientation are encouraged to contact the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System at 1-800-935-8387 to enroll in VA health care.

For more information about the Veterans medical center, clinic locations and other services available to Veterans in southeast Louisiana, visit the website [www.neworleans.va.gov](http://www.neworleans.va.gov), or follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, keyword: VANewOrleans.

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